DOCUMENT RESUME

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ABSTRACT

An investigation was made of the effects of drop policy changes at Pasadena City College on student attrition and final-grade distributions. Data on student attrition were obtained from data processing printouts for the years 1965-1973, and final-grade distribution data were obtained from Departmental Grade Distribution Reports produced annually. Results of the survey showed that the first policy change that extended the drop data from the sixth week to the last three weeks caused a dramatic attrition increase, whereas the extending of the drop data an additional three weeks to the last Friday before finals increased attrition, but not to a significant degree. It was also shown that policy changes not only greatly increased the percentage of W (Withdrawal) grades but also shifted the distribution curve for A through F grades--the percentage of A and B grades was increased, with a reduction in C, D, and F grades. (DB)

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EFFECTS OF CLASS DROP POLICY CHANGES ON STUDENT ATTRITION AND FINAL GRADES (GRADED CLASSES) PASADENA CITY COLLEGE 1965-1973

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I PURPOSE OF SURVEY

Prior to 1969 the Pasadena City College drop policy permitted a student to drop a graded class through the sixth week and receive a W (Withdrawal) grade. Dropping a class after the sixth week incurred an F grade penalty.

Effective fall 1969 the drop policy was changed to read:

Class drop during first 6 weeks	= W grade
Class drop during 7th to last 3 weeks	= W grade if student was passing at time of drop
	= F grade if student was not passing
Class drop during last 3 weeks	= F grade

In fall 1970 the drop policy was further altered, permitting a student to drop a class up to the Friday before final examinations with a grade of W. This policy is currently in effect.

Considerable conjecture resulted among college staff concerning effects of the two major drop policy changes upon the total college program. This historical survey was designed to investigate effects of drop policy changes upon student attrition and final grade distributions.

Major Findings

1. The two changes in drop policy were followed by a very significant increase in total student attrition. The mean per cent attrition prior to fall 1969 was 16.22, the mean per cent attrition from fall 1969 to spring 1973 was 24.51, an increase of 8.29 per cent.

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2. The two drop policy changes increased the per cent of A and W grades and decreased per cent of B, C, D and F grades for all graded courses. Mean per cent change and degree of significance are as follows:

Grade	Mean % Change	Degree of Significance
A	+ 2.88	Significant
B	- 3.17	Significant
C	-10.25	Very Significant
D	- 4.40	Very Significant
F	- 1.60	Significant
E	+ .30	Not Significant
W	+16.45	Very Significant

PART I
STUDENT ATTRITION

Data relative to student attrition were gathered from data processing print-outs issued each semester for years 1965-1973. Printouts inventoried enrollment for each class at census date and at end of semester. Student attrition was determined by subtracting end of class count from census count. Attrition was considered the sum total of all drops and withdrawals from class during the semester. (Data were incomplete or unavailable for fall semesters 1965-66, 1966-67, 1968-69, hence not a part of this study.)

Data and statistics for this study are presented in terms of course numbering system which has been used at Pasadena City College since fall 1966:

Course Number	Purpose
1-99	University or senior college lower division courses
100-399	General education and occupationally oriented courses
400-499	Review and foundation building courses

Prior to 1966-67 the following course numbering system was in effect:

Course Number	Purpose
Q1-Q99	Review and foundation building courses
E1-E99	General education courses
1-99	University or senior college lower division courses
100-499	Occupationally oriented courses

For purposes of this study data for 1965 from Q courses were combined with 400-499 courses, E and 100-499 data with 100-399.

Table I is a history of class enrollments by semester and year, according to course classification. Column 1, Total Enrollment All Courses, indicates a fairly steady increase from 41,377 in second semester 1965-66 to 52,427 second semester 1972-73.

Traditionally the majority of enrollments have been in 1-99 courses, (over 75% since spring 1969-70). Enrollment in the 100-399 courses has remained essentially

the same (approximately 20%). Per cent of enrollment in 400-499 courses has decreased about 50%.

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TABLE I

HISTORY
of
ENROLLMENT AT CENSUS DATE
1-99, 100-399, 400-499 Courses
1965-1973

Year	Semester	Total Enrollment in All Courses	1-99 Enrollment	1-99 % of Total	100-399 Enrollment	100-399 % of Total	400-499 Enrollment	400-499 % of Total
1972-73	2	52,427	40,252	76.7	10,570	20.2	1,605	3.1
	1	52,307	39,554	75.7	10,852	20.7	1,901	3.6
1971-72	2	51,456	40,012	77.8	9,790	19.0	1,654	3.2
	1	54,092	42,422	78.4	9,567	17.7	2,103	3.9
1970-71	2	50,781	39,190	77.2	9,671	19.0	1,920	3.8
	1	50,511	38,909	77.0	9,391	18.6	2,211	4.4
1969-70	2	45,549	34,585	76.0	8,582	18.8	2,382	5.2
	1	47,277	34,971	74.0	9,194	19.4	3,112	6.6
1968-69 *	2	43,565	32,127	73.7	8,501	19.5	2,937	6.7
1967-68	2	43,033	31,059	72.2	8,485	19.7	3,489	8.1
	1	44,753	30,338	67.8	9,370	20.9	5,045	11.3
1966-67 *	2	41,146	29,426	71.5	8,103	19.7	3,617	8.8
1965-66 *	2	41,377	29,605	71.6	8,994	21.7	2,778	6.7

* Data unavailable for first semesters 1965-66, 1966-67, 1968-69

Table II details student attrition by year and semester for 1-99 courses and 100-499 courses. Figure I is a graphic portrait of per cent attrition from columns 5, 8 and 11 of Table II. All three curves show a steep rise in fall 196970 when the first drop policy change became effective. All three curves show a gradual rise beginning in fall 1970 when the second policy was implemented.

Figure 1 indicates attrition in the 100-499 courses prior to 1968-69 was much higher than in the 1-99 courses and for the total college.

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TABLE II
STUDENT ATTRITION
CENSUS DATE TO END OF CLASS
1-99, 100-499 Courses
1965-1973

		1-99 COURSES			100-499 COURSES			ALL COURSES		
		Enrollment		Per Cent	Enrollment		Per Cent	Enrollment		Per Cent
Year	Semester	Census	End of Class	Attrition	Census	End of Class	Attrition	Census	End of Class	Attrition
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
1972-73	2	40,252	30,006	25.5	12,175	8,698	28.6	52,427	38,704	26.2
	1	39,554	29,687	24.9	12,753	9,373	26.5	52,307	39,060	25.3
1971-72	2	40,012	29,321	26.7	11,444	8,351	27.0	51,456	37,672	26.8
	1	42,422	32,002	24.6	11,670	8,631	26.0	54,092	40,633	24.9
1970-71	2	39,190	29,759	24.1	11,591	8,739	24.6	50,781	38,498	24.2
	1	38,909	30,118	22.6	11,602	8,879	23.5	50,511	38,997	22.8
1969-70	2	34,585	26,804	22.5	10,964	8,363	23.7	45,549	35,167	22.8
	1	34,971	26,971	22.9	12,306	9,365	23.9	47,277	36,336	23.1
1968-69 *	2	32,127	27,158	15.5	11,438	9,654	15.6	43,565	36,812	15.5
1967-68	2	31,059	26,466	14.8	11,974	9,508	20.6	43,033	35,974	16.4
	1	30,338	25,722	15.2	14,415	11,630	19.3	44,753	37,352	16.5
1966-67 *	2	29,426	25,267	14.1	11,720	9,542	18.6	41,146	34,809	15.4
1965-66 *	2	29,605	25,055	15.4	11,772	9,145	22.3	41,377	34,200	17.3

* Complete enrollment data unavailable for first semester 1965-66, 1966-67, 1968-69

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FIGURE 1

PER CENT ATTRITION
TOTAL COLLEGE

CENSUS TO END OF CLASS
COURSES 1-99, 100-499
BY SEMESTER AND YEAR
1965-1972

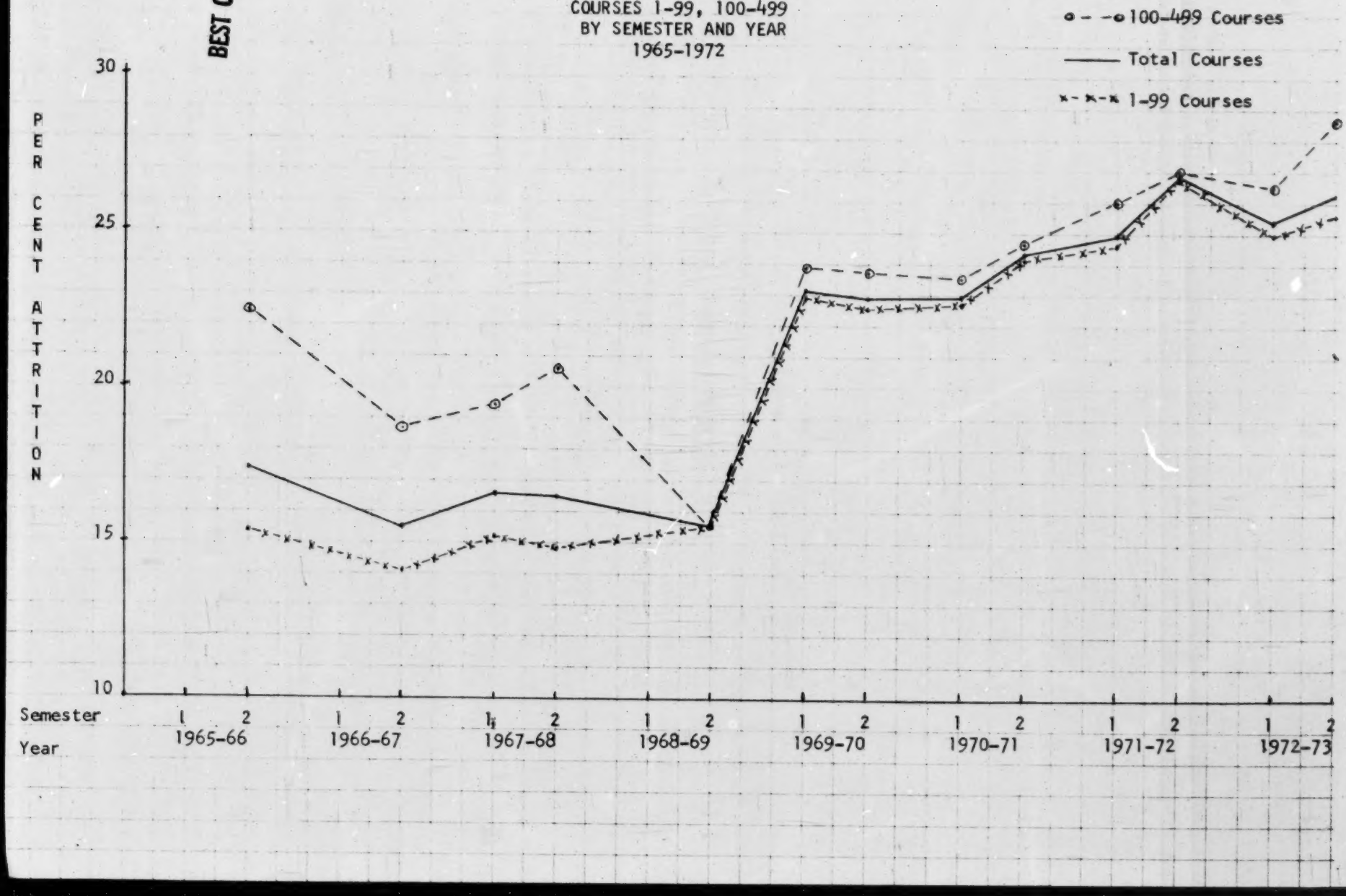

Table III details enrollments and attrition for 100-399, and 400-499 courses. Figure II graphically compares per cent attrition over the years in all three course classifications. Prior to fall 1969 attrition in both 100-399 and 400-499 was high, but was gradually dropping, while attrition remained fairly constant in 1-99 courses. Beginning fall 1969 all curves show an increase in attrition. Attrition has been lowest in 100-399 courses since fall 1969, except for spring 1973. Attrition has been consistently highest in 400-499 courses.

TABLE III

HISTORY
of
STUDENT ATTRITION
CENSUS TO END OF CLASS
100-399, 400-499 Courses
1965-1973

Year	Semester	100-399 Enrollment Census (1)	100-399 Enrollment End of Class (2)	100-399 Enrollment % Attrition (3)	400-499 Enrollment Census (4)	400-499 Enrollment End of Class (5)	400-499 Enrollment % Attrition (6)
1972-73	2	10,570	7,783	26.4	1,605	915	43.0
	1	10,852	8,178	24.6	1,901	1,195	37.1
1971-72	2	9,790	7,393	24.5	1,654	958	42.1
	1	9,567	7,326	23.4	2,103	1,305	37.9
1970-71	2	9,671	7,530	22.1	1,920	1,209	37.0
	1	9,391	7,352	21.7	2,211	1,527	30.9
1969-70	2	8,582	6,859	20.1	2,382	1,504	36.9
	1	9,194	7,174	22.0	3,112	2,191	29.6
----- POLICY CHANGE -----							
1968-69	2 *	8,501	7,349	13.6	2,937	2,305	21.5
1967-68	2	8,485	7,039	17.0	3,489	2,469	29.2
	1	9,370	7,743	17.4	5,045	3,887	23.0
1966-67	2 *	8,103	6,859	15.4	3,617	2,683	25.8
1965-66	2 *	8,994	7,192	20.0	2,778	1,953	29.7

* Data not available for first semesters 1965-66, 1966-67, 1968-69

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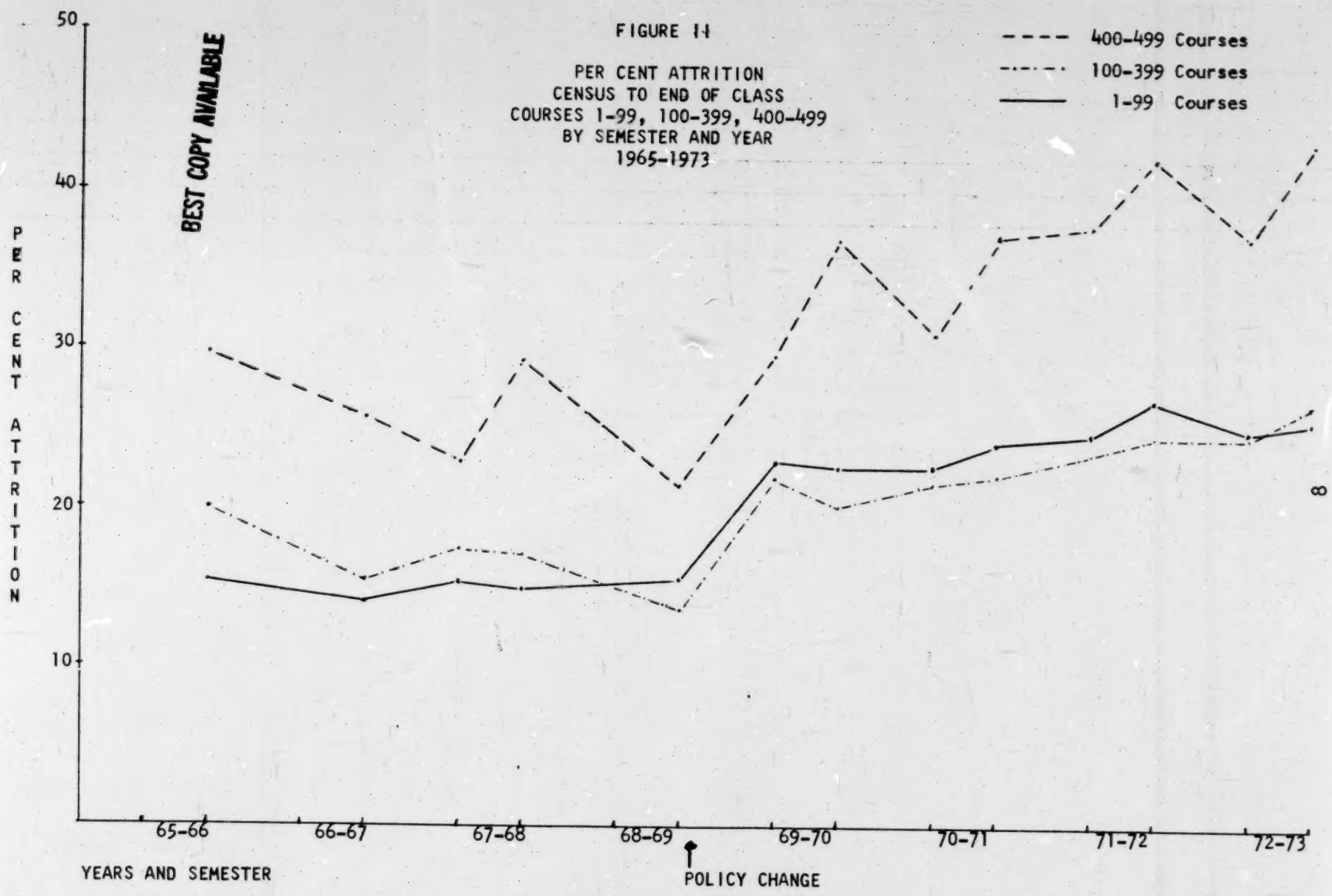
FIGURE 11

PER CENT ATTRITION
CENSUS TO END OF CLASS
COURSES 1-99, 100-399, 400-499
BY SEMESTER AND YEAR
1965-1973



SIGNIFICANCE of DROP POLICY CHANGES on STUDENT ATTRITION

In order to determine significance of policy changes on student attrition the mean per cent attrition for the five semesters prior to 1969 was compared with mean per cent attrition for eight semesters thereafter.

Table IV records statistics according to course classifications. For example the mean per cent attrition for courses 1-99, for the five semesters prior to fall 1969, was 15.0, mean per cent attrition for eight semesters thereafter was 24.2, an increase of 9.2 per cent. This is a very significant increase (t=10.698). Table IV shows a very significant increase in mean per cent attrition in each course classification: the greatest increase occurs in 400-499 courses (+10.97 mean per cent), an increase of 8.29 is recorded for all courses combined.

Effect of Each Policy Change

Table V compares effects of the two drop policy changes upon attrition in all courses. The mean per cent attrition prior to first policy change in fall 1969 was 16.22, for the two semesters immediately following it was 22.95 - an increase of 6.73 (a very significant increase). The mean per cent attrition for six semesters following second policy change in fall 1970 was 25.03, an increase of 2.08 which is not significant. In other words, Table V indicates the first policy change was followed by a very significant increase in level of attrition. The second policy change has been followed by a general increase in attrition, although not a significant change during the six semesters.

TABLE IV

COMPARISON
of
MEAN PER CENT ATTRITION
BEFORE AND AFTER DROP POLICY CHANGE
Courses 1-99, 100-399, 400-499

Event and Time Span	Courses 1-99 Mean % Attrition	Courses 100-399 Mean % Attrition	Courses 400-499 Mean % Attrition	All Courses Mean % Attrition
Before Policy Changes (1965-Spring 1969)	15.0	16.68	25.84	16.22
After Policy Changes (Fall 1969-Spring 1973)	24.2	23.10	36.81	24.51
Mean Per Cent Change	+ 9.2	+ 6.42	+10.97	+ 8.29
Degree of Significance	Very Signi-ficant (t=10.698) (11 df)	Very Signi-ficant (t=5.232) (11 df)	Very Signi-ficant (t=4.441) (11 df)	Very Signi-ficant (t=10.877) (11 df)

TABLE V

COMPARISON
of
MEAN PER CENT ATTRITION
IN ALL COURSES
BEFORE AND AFTER EACH POLICY CHANGE

Time Span	Mean Per Cent Attrition	Degree of Significance
Before Fall 1969 (Five Semesters)	16.22	
1969-1970 Two Semesters	22.95	
Change	+ 6.73	Very Significant (t = 12.844) (5 df)
Fall 1970 through Spring 1973 Six Semesters	25.03	
Change From Two Semesters 1969-70	+ 2.08	Not Significant (t = 1.930) (6 df)

PART II

EFFECT OF DROP POLICY CHANGES on FINAL GRADE DISTRIBUTION

Data for this portion of the survey came from Departmental Grade Distribution Reports traditionally produced each fall semester by Data Processing Center. Printouts list the number and per cent ** of students obtaining A, B, C, D, E, F, W* grades, both for day and evening classes. Data are provided according to 1-99 courses and 100-499 courses only. For purposes of this study data for day and evening were combined.

Table VI lists by year the number and per cent of students earning final grades according to 1-99 or 100-499 courses.

Figures III, IV, and V show graphically by year and course classification the per cent of students earning final grades: Figure III records all courses, Figure IV 1-99, and Figure V 100-499 courses.

* A W grade means the student was enrolled in the class but either dropped the class or withdrew from college.

** In 1967 a change occurred in the policy for determining per cent of letter grades earned. Prior to 1967 per cent was based on total number of students completing the class, since that time per cents have been based on maximum enrollment in the class. All percentages in this report were based on maximum class enrollment.

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TABLE VI
FINAL GRADE DISTRIBUTIONS
NUMBER AND PER CENT
1-99, 100-499 Courses
FALL 1965-1972

Year (1)	Total Enrollment (2)	A Number (3)	A Per Cent (4)	B Number (5)	B Per Cent (6)	C Number (7)	C Per Cent (8)	D Number (9)	D Per Cent (10)	E Number (11)	E Per Cent (12)	F Number (13)	F Per Cent (14)	W Number (15)	W Per Cent (16)
1-99 COURSES															
1972-73	37,458	5,766	15.4	7,893	21.1	6,668	17.8	1,440	3.8	585	1.6	1,405	3.8	13,701	36.6
1971-72	37,538	5,488	14.6	8,055	21.4	7,439	19.8	1,581	4.2	497	1.3	1,162	3.0	13,316	35.4
1970-71	35,915	4,789	13.3	8,188	22.7	8,029	22.3	1,692	4.7	353	.9	1,172	3.2	11,692	32.5
1969-70	31,751	3,743	11.7	6,994	22.0	7,407	23.3	1,717	5.4	337	1.0	943	2.9	10,610	33.4
1968-69	29,157	3,329	11.4	6,385	21.8	7,859	26.9	2,114	7.2	301	1.0	1,732	5.9	7,437	25.5
1967-68	19,021	3,163	16.6	5,410	28.4	5,258	27.6	1,437	7.5	146	.7	887	4.6	2,720	14.2
1966-67	19,775	3,060	15.4	5,294	26.7	5,223	26.4	1,505	7.6	180	.8	976	4.9	3,543	18.0
1965-66	20,386	2,985	14.7	5,505	27.2	5,384	26.4	1,770	8.7	134	.7	1,044	5.2	3,564	17.1
100-499 COURSES															
1972-73	20,565	4,288	20.9	4,272	20.8	2,792	13.6	571	2.8	323	1.6	1,102	5.4	7,217	35.1
1971-72	19,803	3,982	20.1	4,438	22.4	2,913	14.7	573	2.8	227	1.1	882	4.4	6,788	34.2
1970-71	19,555	3,923	20.0	4,600	23.5	3,189	16.3	685	3.5	183	.9	898	4.5	6,077	31.0
1969-70	20,091	3,530	17.5	4,687	23.3	3,473	17.2	864	4.3	177	.8	910	4.5	6,450	32.1
1968-69	21,768	3,237	14.8	5,201	23.8	4,792	22.0	1,349	6.1	167	.7	1,740	7.9	5,282	24.2
1967-68	23,230	2,818	12.1	6,254	26.9	7,756	33.3	2,317	9.9	229	.9	1,209	5.2	2,647	11.3
1966-67	25,961	2,963	11.4	6,400	24.6	8,536	32.8	2,471	9.5	261	1.0	1,237	4.7	4,093	15.7
1965-66	26,574	2,696	10.2	6,342	23.8	9,127	34.4	2,856	10.7	270	1.0	1,306	4.9	3,977	15.0
SUMMARY 1-99 and 100-499 COURSES															
1972-73	58,023	10,054	17.3	12,165	21.0	9,460	16.3	2,011	3.5	908	1.6	2,507	4.3	20,918	36.1
1971-72	57,341	9,470	16.5	12,493	21.8	10,352	18.1	2,154	3.8	724	1.3	2,044	3.6	20,104	35.1
1970-71	55,470	8,712	15.7	12,788	23.0	11,218	20.2	2,377	4.2	536	.9	2,070	3.7	17,769	32.0
1969-70	51,842	7,273	14.0	11,681	22.5	10,880	20.9	2,581	4.9	514	.9	1,853	3.5	17,060	32.9
1968-69	50,925	6,566	12.8	11,586	22.7	12,651	24.8	3,463	6.8	468	.9	3,472	6.8	12,719	24.9
1967-68	42,251	5,981	14.1	11,664	27.6	13,014	30.8	3,754	8.8	375	.8	2,096	4.9	5,367	12.7
1966-67	45,736	6,023	13.1	11,694	25.5	13,759	30.0	3,976	8.6	421	.9	2,207	4.8	7,656	16.7
1965-66	46,960	5,681	12.0	11,847	25.2	14,511	30.9	4,626	9.8	404	.8	2,350	5.0	7,541	16.0

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TOTAL COLLEGE GRADE DISTRIBUTION
BY PER CENT
FALL SEMESTERS
1965-1972

FIGURE III

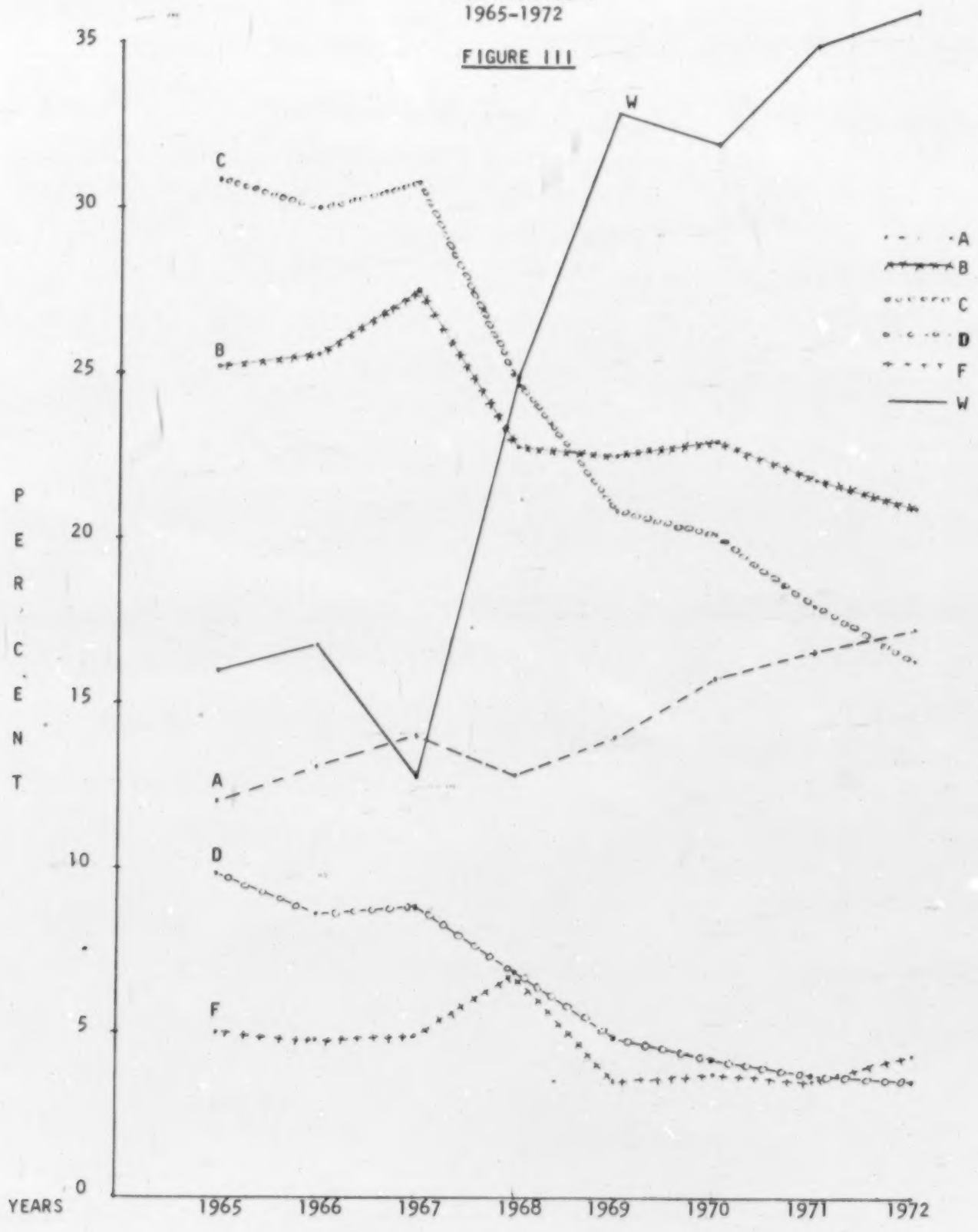

FIGURE IV
COLLEGE GRADE DISTRIBUTION
BY PER CENT
1-99 COURSES
FALL SEMESTERS
1965-1972

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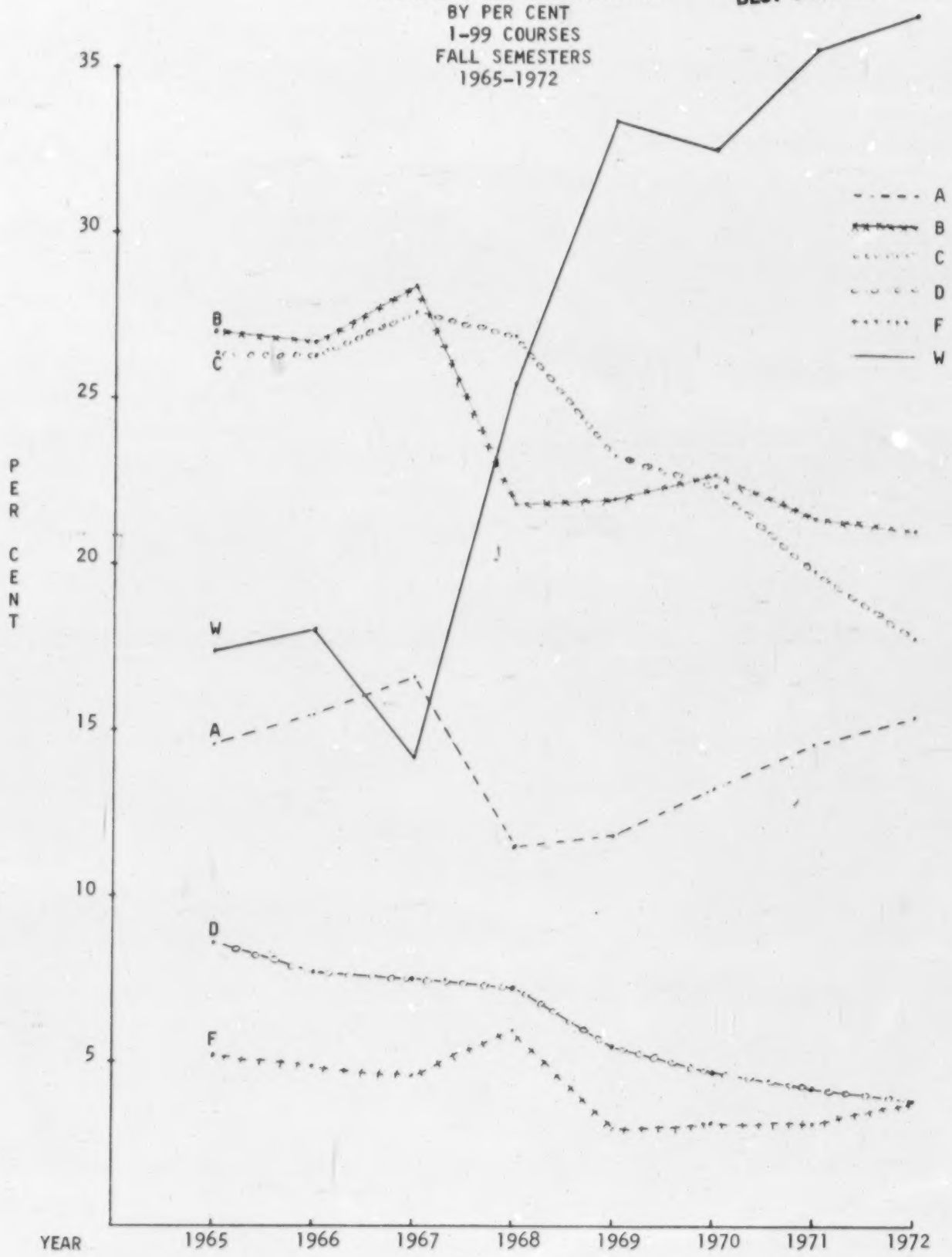

FIGURE V

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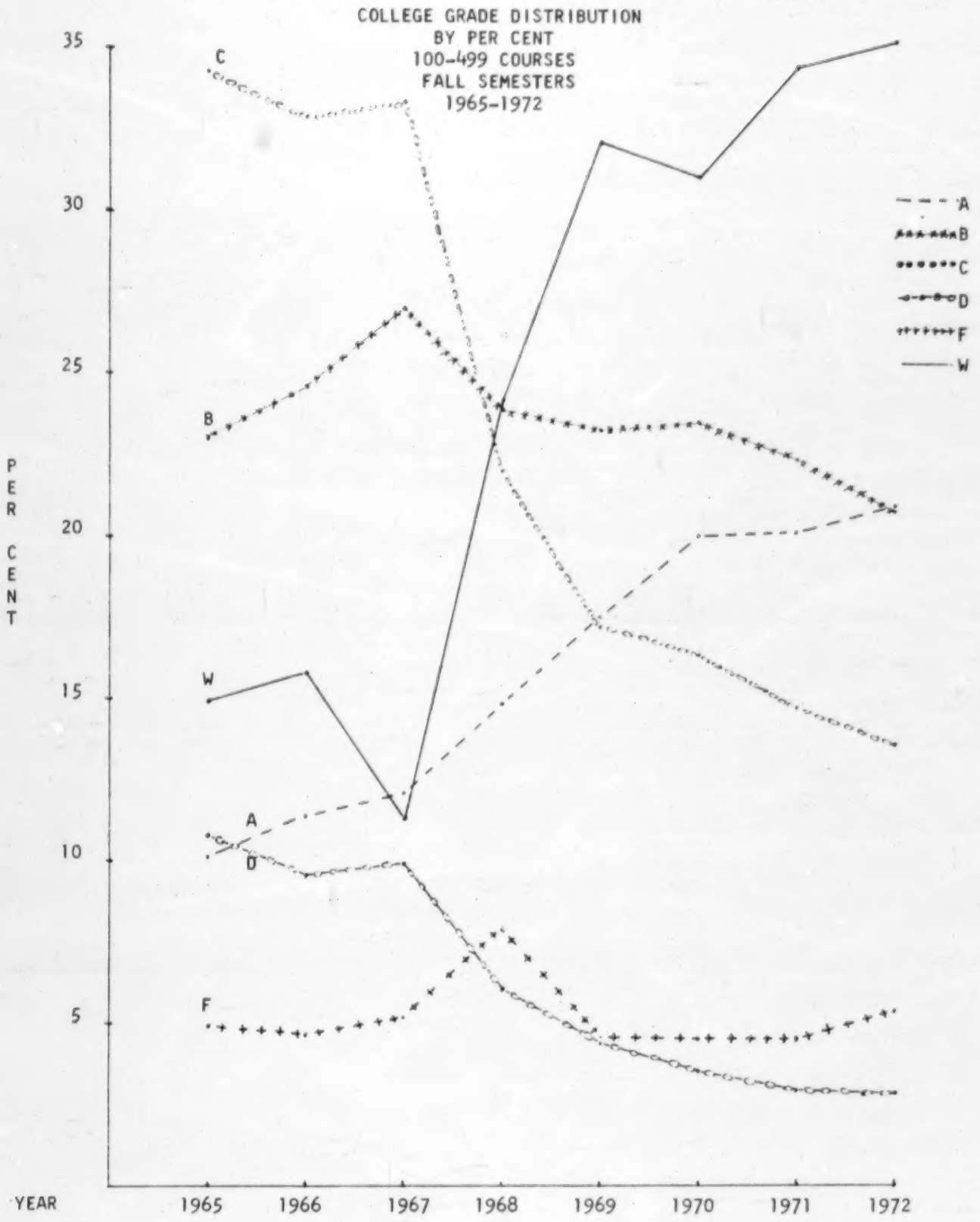

Significance of Drop Policy Change on Final Grades

In order to determine the effect of drop policy changes on each final grade, the mean per cent earned for the first four years prior to policy change (fall 1969) was compared with the mean per cent earned in the subsequent four years.

Table VII records these statistics for each letter grade according to course number. For example, under 1-99 courses in the first column, the mean per cent of A's earned in the first four years prior to drop policy change was 14.53. The mean per cent of A's in 1969-1972 was 13.75 - a decrease of .78 mean per cent. This is not a statistically significant change. The first column under 100-499 courses indicates a mean per cent increase of 7.50 in A grades, which is very significant.

Finally, Table VII summarizes the general effect of policy changes on letter grades: an increase in A and W grades and decrease in B, C, D and F grades, (E grades were not affected by policy changes).

Figures VI, VII and VIII illustrate graphically the mean per cent changes in each letter grade according to course classification: Figure VI illustrates all courses, VII, the 1-99, and Figure VIII 100-499 courses. The bar graphs are identical to the mean per cent before and after policy changes shown in Table VII.

All three figures indicate drop policy changes greatly increased mean per cent of W grades with following effects on A - F grade distributions: Prior to policy changes C grades were in modal frequency position, after policy changes B grades had highest frequency position, in 100-499 courses (Figure VIII) both A and B were higher than C. In other words drop changes truncated the A - F grade distribution: total per cent of A and B grades increased with reduction in per cent of C, D and F grades.

TABLE VII
MEAN PER CENT OF FINAL GRADES
BEFORE AND AFTER POLICY CHANGE

	MEAN PER CENT OF TOTAL CLASS ENROLLMENT BY LETTER GRADE						
	A	B	C	D	F	E	W
1-99 COURSES							
Before Policy Change (1965-1968)	14.53	26.03	26.83	7.75	5.15	.8	18.70
After Policy Change (1969-1972)	13.75	21.80	20.80	4.53	3.23	1.2	34.48
Change	- .78 Not Significant (t=.565) (6 df)	- 4.23 Significant (t=2.885) (6 df)	- 6.03 Very Significant (t=4.786) (6 df)	-3.22 Very Significant (t=6.192) (6 df)	-1.92 Very Significant (t=5.818) (6 df)	+ .4 Not Significant (t=2.381) (6 df)	+15.78 Very Significant (t=6.147) (6 df)
100-499 COURSES							
Before Policy Change	12.13	24.78	30.63	9.05	5.68	.9	16.55
After Policy Change	19.63	22.50	15.45	3.35	4.70	1.1	33.10
Change	+ 7.50 Very Significant (t=6.250) (6 df)	- 2.28 Not Significant (t=2.303) (6 df)	-15.18 Very Significant (t=5.047) (6 df)	-5.70 Very Significant (t=5.297) (6 df)	- .98 Not Significant (t=1.505) (6 df)	+ .2 Not Significant (t=1.058) (6 df)	+16.55 Very Significant (t=5.734) (6 df)
TOTAL COLLEGE							
Before Policy Change	13.00	25.25	29.13	8.50	5.38	.85	17.58
After Policy Change	15.88	22.08	18.88	4.10	3.78	1.18	34.03
Change	+ 2.88 Significant (t=3.542) (6 df)	- 3.17 Significant (t=2.991) (6 df)	-10.25 Very Significant (t=5.765) (6 df)	-4.40 Very Significant (t=6.171) (6 df)	-1.60 Significant (t=3.137) (6 df)	+ .30 Not Significant (t=1.739) (6 df)	+16.45 Very Significant (t=5.952) (6 df)

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FIGURE VI
COMPARISON OF FINAL GRADES
(in Per Cent)
BEFORE AND AFTER FALL 1969
ALL COURSES

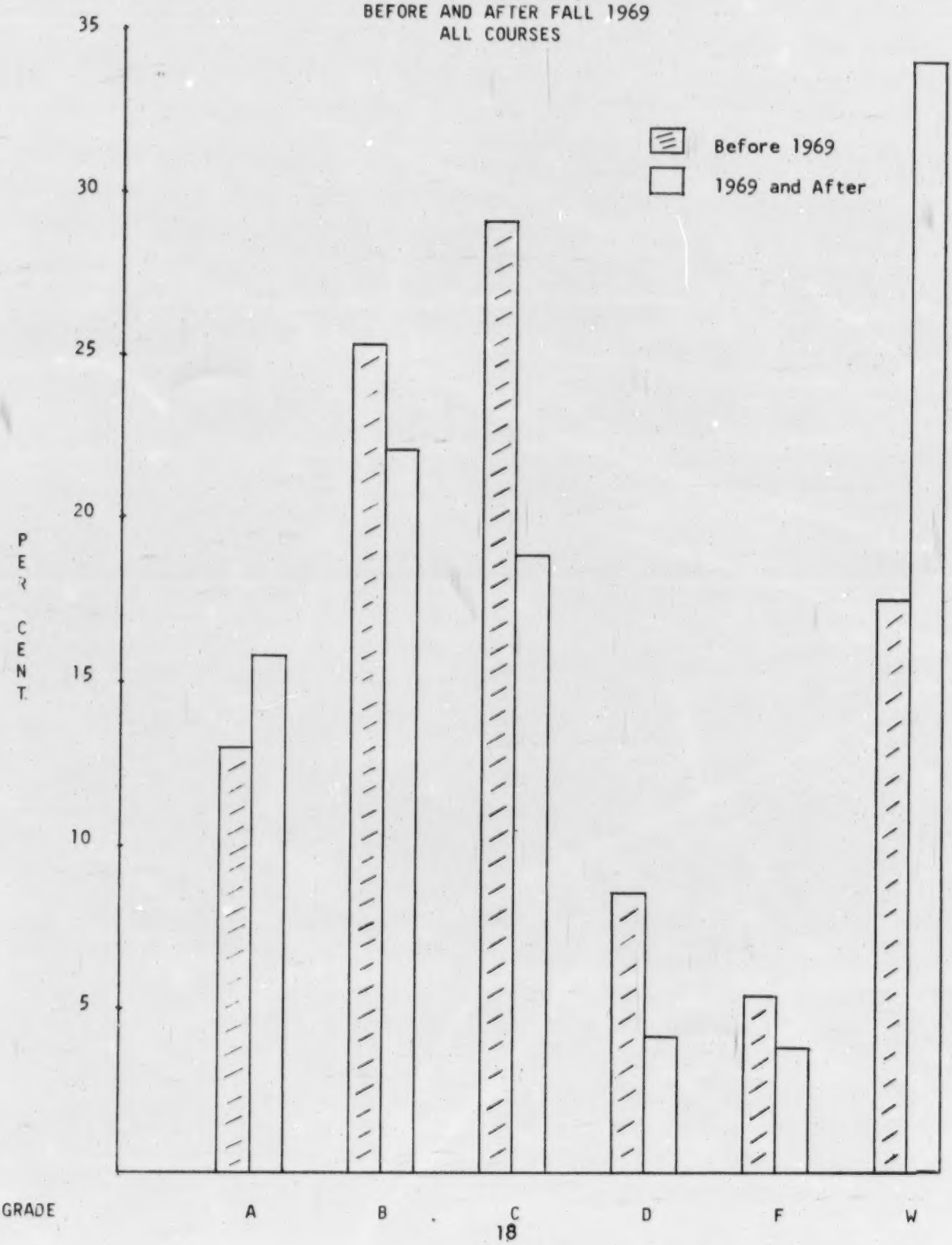

FIGURE VII
COMPARISON OF FINAL GRADES
(in Per Cent)
BEFORE AND AFTER FALL 1969
1-99 COURSES

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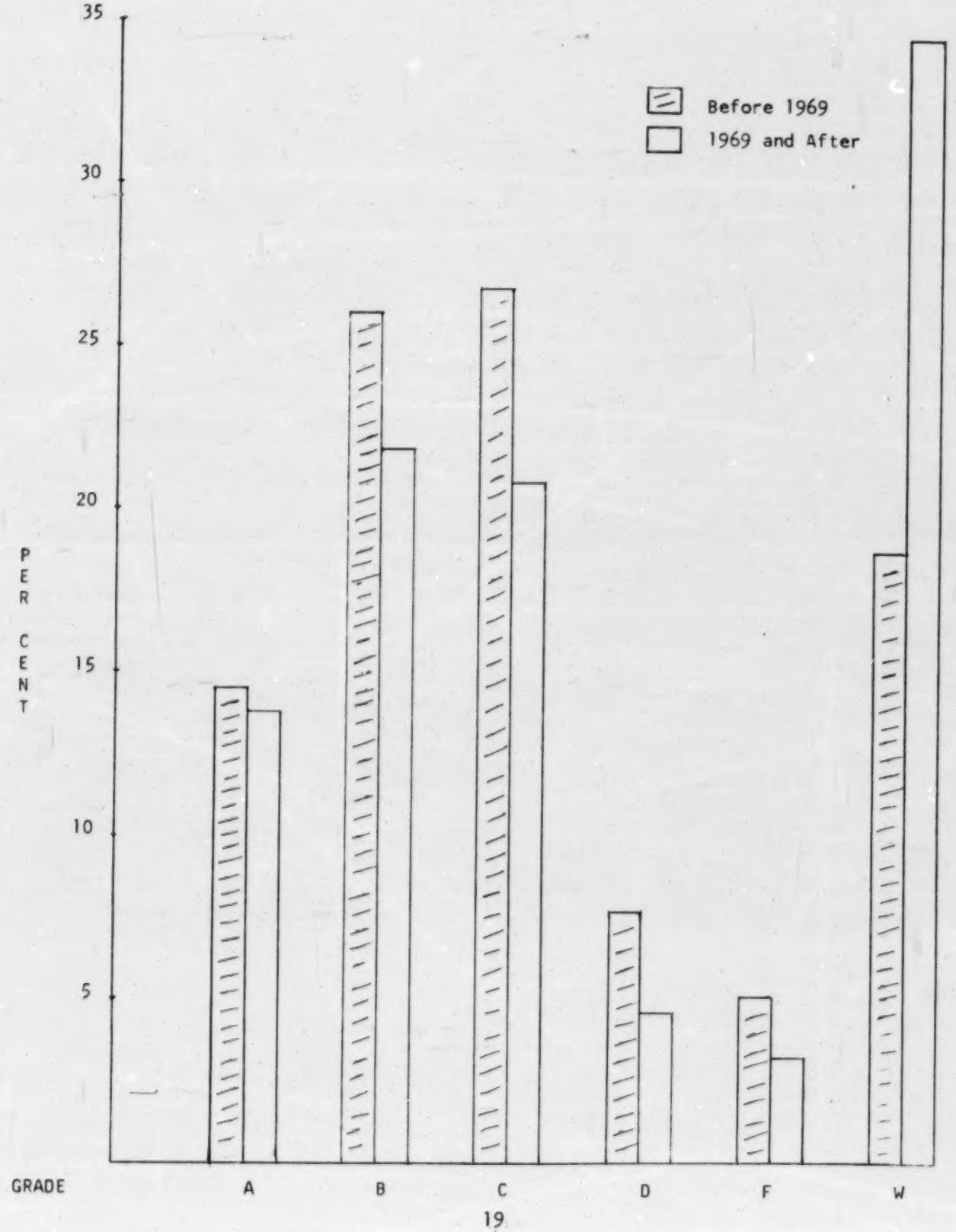

FIGURE VIII
COMPARISON OF FINAL GRADES
(in Per Cent)
BEFORE AND AFTER FALL 1969
100-499 COURSES

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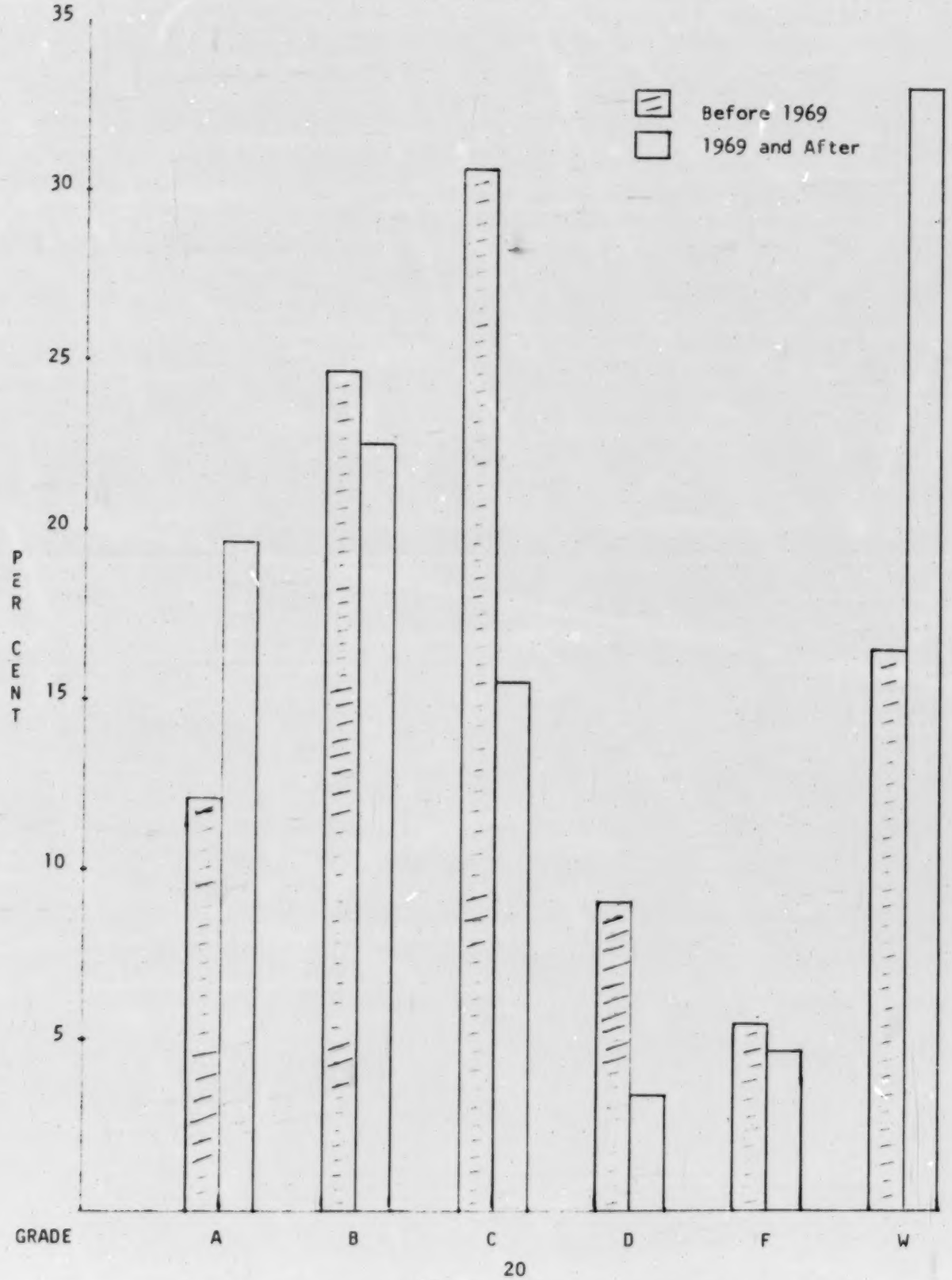

History of W Grades

Figure IX graphically compares the history of W grades (in per cent) earned each fall in 1-99, 100-499, and total courses. Traditionally the per cent of W grades has been higher in 1-99 courses than in 100-499 courses, regardless of drop policies. This information may appear inconsistent with Figure I which shows attrition to have been higher in 100-499 courses than in 1-99. However, a most likely clarification can be found in the two sources of data: Attrition in Figure I comes from differences between census enrollment and end of class, whereas per cent of W grades in Figure IX was determined by dividing number of students receiving W grades by peak class enrollment. Peak enrollment most likely occurred before census date.

Figure I could very well indicate a higher per cent of students in 1-99 courses drop or withdraw before census date than in 100-499 courses.

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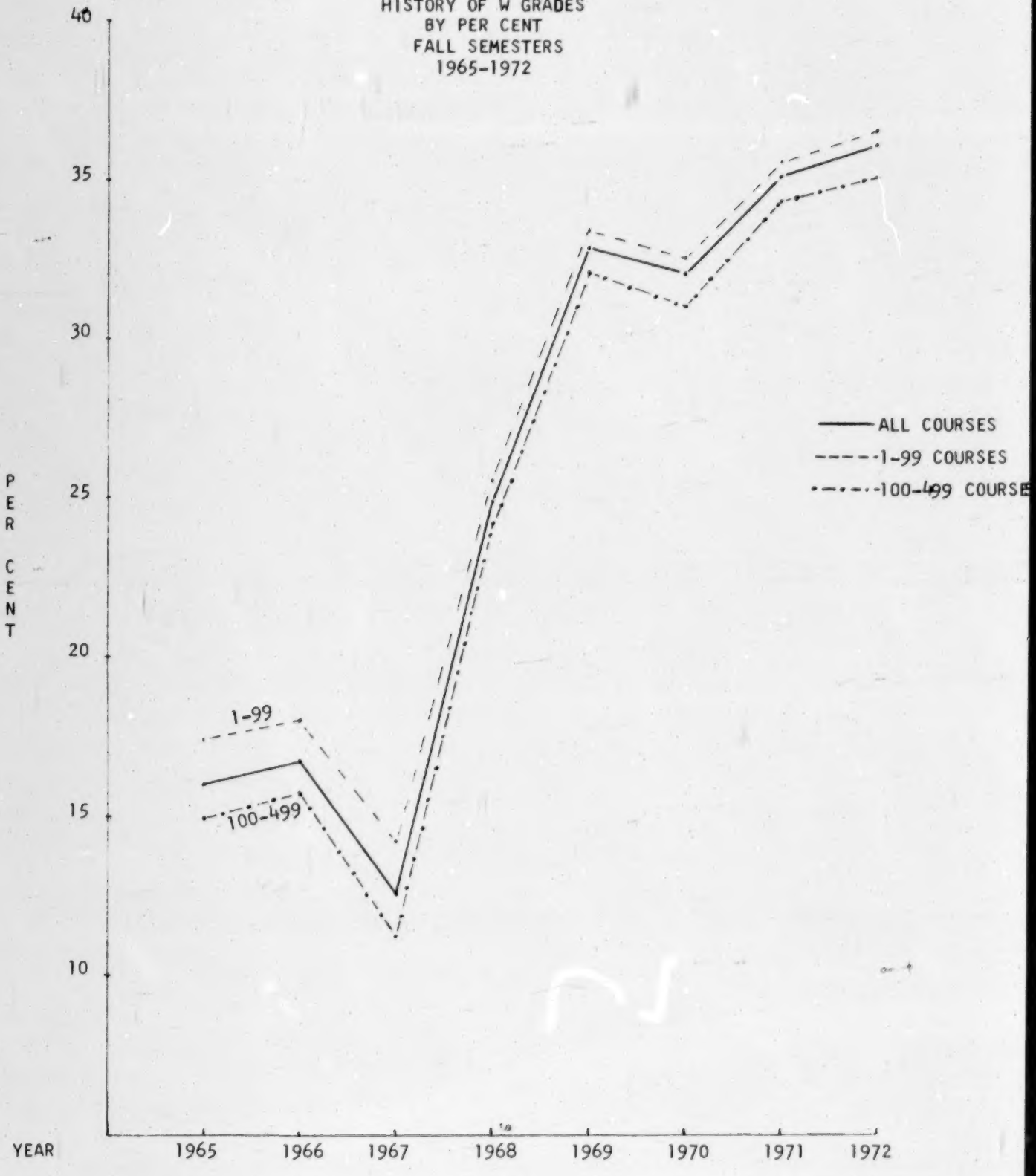
FIGURE IX

TOTAL COLLEGE
HISTORY OF W GRADES
BY PER CENT
FALL SEMESTERS
1965-1972



SUMMARY AND COMMENTS

On the basis of findings in this survey the following observations are offered:

I. Class Enrollments

During the past eight years class enrollments have shown a steady increase to a peak of 52,427 in spring 1972-73. Courses 1-99 have consistently enrolled the majority of students - over 75% during each of the last eight semesters.

The 100-399 courses had a fairly consistent 20% of total enrollment, whereas per cent enrollment in the 400-499 courses has dropped about one-half (from 6.7 in spring 1965 to 3.1 spring 1973).

II. Attrition and Drop Policy Changes

A. Attrition has traditionally been highest in 400-499 courses, regardless of drop policy changes.

B. Prior to changes in drop policy, attrition was lowest in 1-99 courses, since drop policy changes attrition has been lowest in 100-399 courses.

C. Attrition during the last three years has been higher in second semester than the first.

D. The first drop policy change (fall 1969) was followed by 6.73% increase in attrition during the next two semesters. This was a very significant increase. The second drop policy change (fall 1970) was followed by a gradual (but not significant) attrition increase of 2.08%.

In other words the first policy change which extended the drop date from sixth week to the last three weeks ushered in a dramatic attrition increase, whereas extending the drop date an additional three weeks to the last Friday before finals increased attrition, but not to a significant degree.

E. Effects of the two drop policies on attrition are in keeping with findings of a withdrawal study made by the Pasadena City College Research Office for spring semester 1971: Students withdraw at a fairly steady rate all during the semester rather than rushing to withdraw just before final examinations.

Further research is also needed to determine class drop rate during the semester. Accurate information concerning effect of drop date changes on student attrition is essential in view of the proposed second census date for determining units of ADA.

III. Final Grade Distribution

A. The two drop policies had the following effect on grades (by course numbers)

Courses	Effect
1-99	Increase in W grades Decrease in B, C, D, F grades No significant change in A
100-499	Increase in A and W grades Decrease in C and D grades No significant change in B and F grades
All Courses	Increase in A and W grades Decrease in all other grades

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E grades were not affected by drop policy changes.

B. Policy changes not only greatly increased the per cent of W grades but also shifted the distribution curve for A-F grades. Prior to fall 1969 the modal frequency was the C grade, after fall 1969 the modal frequency was the B grade. In other words, the drop policy changes tended to truncate the A-F grade distribution curve: the per cent of A and B grades was increased, with reduction in C, D, and F grades.